

# EXPLORE!



## Across the Kazakh Steppe

KAZAKHSTAN - TRIP CODE KAZ

DISCOVERY

### Why book this trip?

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On this adventure through the wealthiest of the 'Stans, we travel vast swathes of the Kazak steppe, from the foothills of the Tien Shen Mountains in the south, through Silk Road cities and past Russian cosmodromes to Astana in the dusty north.

- **Aralsk** - Uncover eerie ships rusting in the desert where the Aral Sea once was.
- **Baikonur** - Visit the Baikonur Cosmodrome, explore a decommissioned spacecraft and sit in a cosmonaut's seat.
- **Astana** - Explore Kazakhstan's uber-modern capital with its glittering skyscrapers and bizarre architecture.



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 13  
Lunch: 3  
Dinner: 3



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader  
Driver(s)  
Local Guide(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
Flight  
Train



**ACCOMMODATION**



**TRIP PACE:**  
Moderate



**GROUP SIZE:**  
10 - 16

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

## Trip information

### Country information

#### Kazakhstan

##### Climate

In summer the temperatures can reach more than 30 °C and in winter around -20 °C (-4.0 °F)

##### Time difference to GMT

+4

##### Plugs

2 Pin Round

##### Religion

Islam

##### Language

Kazakh, Russian

### Budgeting and packing

#### Clothing

Light-weight natural fabrics such as cotton and linen are most suitable for the hot summers of Central Asia, it is best to avoid synthetic fabrics as temperatures can get very hot in the summer months. During spring and autumn temperatures are cooler and a good fleece is recommended.

#### Footwear

Good quality, comfortable shoes/trainers and sandals.

## Luggage

20kg

### Luggage: On tour

Due to the variety of transport on this trip, soft-sided holdalls are recommended.

## Equipment

We'd recommend bringing sunscreen, a sunhat and a water bottle

## Tipping

### Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

### Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly, you should allow US\$ 35.

## Kazakhstan

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£10	£15	£2.5	£0.5

### Foreign Exchange

Local currency	Recommended Currency For Exchange
Kazakhstani Tenge	US Dollars or Euros are recommended for exchange.

### Where To Exchange

Banks, bureaux de change, airports, train stations, ports & large hotels

ATM Availability	Credit Card Acceptance
ATMs are widely available.	Most major credit cards are accepted in large hotels

### Travellers Cheques

International traveller's cheques are not widely accepted, and therefore not recommended.

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## **Transport, Accommodation & Meals**

### **Transport Information**

Bus, Flight, Train

### **Accommodation notes**

There is a wide variety of accommodation used on this trip; the hotels in Almaty and Astana are modern and comfortable with air-conditioned rooms, a range of facilities and a wide selection at breakfast. Hotels in Shymkent and Turkistan also offer good levels of 3 star comfort, and the guest house in Altyn Emel National Park offers en-suite facilities with hot showers and modern rooms. The accommodation options in Aralsk and Baikonur are very limited and as such the service and comfort levels are not on par with western hotels. Rooms are en-suite but basic, where the décor is likely to be dated and the hot water intermittent.

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## **Essential Information**

### **FCO Advice**

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

### **Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### **Price Guarantee**

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### **Visa and Passport Information**

Kazakhstan: Nationals of the UK, US, Australia, Canada and New Zealand can travel to Kazakhstan without a visa, provided your stay does not exceed 30 days. If you wish to stay longer than 30 days, you'll need a visa. You should contact your nearest Embassy of Kazakhstan for further information.

All visa related issues including information for other nationalities should be confirmed with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## **Booking conditions**

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## **Transfers**

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

### **Booking a land only package with Explore**

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers. If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper

altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

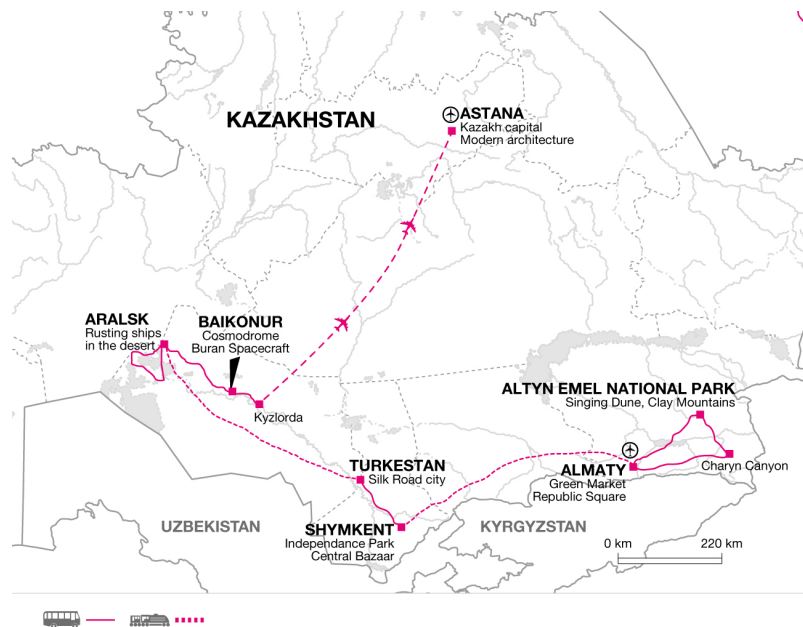
## **Kazakhstan**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on the need for and different prophylaxis available against malaria. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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### **Additional Information**



## Why book this trip

This trip offers an insight into a little-visited part of Central Asia that has seen ancient Silk Road traders, nomadic war-lords and Russian empires all travel across its lands. Modern-day Kazakhstan proudly showcases all of this history alongside its latest acquirement - its new-found wealth. The vibrant cities of Astana and Almaty offer comfortable hotels, fine restaurants and trendy bars, but the investment has yet to trickle down to the small towns and cities, resulting in comfort levels more akin with Soviet times.

For anybody interested in space travel, this trip offers the opportunity to visit a working cosmodrome and to witness a rocket launch. Whilst we have planned this departure to coincide with the launch dates, please note the launch schedules are notoriously fluid and can change between now and the trip's departure, meaning we cannot guarantee seeing a rocket launch.

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## Reviews



**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**